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THE HAMPTONS



THE VIEW FROM ABOVE

Raised from the earth,
a Bridgehampton home celebrates
its wild, wondrous environs.

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Architecture: Paul Masi, Bates Masi + Architects
Home Builder: Stephen Breitenbach Jr., Breitenbach Builders





An elevated Bridgehampton vacation home draws in expansive views of the sea and sky. Flanked by floor-to-ceiling glass, the bridge hallway captures the abode's lofty ambience, anchored by a TLC Home rug and bespoke sculptural table by RT Facts Design.

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s one ascends to higher ground, the horizon slowly emerges, revealing new contours of land and water. The sky, too, expands, flooding one's senses with air and light. Architect Paul Masi sought to distill

these lofty sensations for one Bridgehampton vacation home nestled within a coastal marsh.

Located on a site vulnerable to storm surges, the house needed to be raised for protection from the ocean. Yet this environmental necessity proved serendipitous, creating opportunities for imagining "connections with the landscape that you typically can't enjoy at ground level," Masi explains. "We wanted to navigate the flood issue, but also turn it into an unexpected design element." Working with general contractor Stephen Breitenbach Jr., Masi devised a structure that played with levels of elevation and exposure, creating distinct encounters with the locale that can only exist on high.

They began with hoisting the home from the floodplain, deciding against the wooden supports found below typical waterfront abodes. Instead, they anchored the house with three large structures that function as a garage, central staircase and storage area. Their exteriors are clad in a water-resistant metal-mesh trellis "which allows vines to grow up the sides," Masi notes. "It almost looks like the landscape is growing up to support the house."

Grounded with concrete affixed to pilings, these three foundational volumes ensure that "this house is not going anywhere," the architect adds. But having fewer connections to the ground also created "larger apertures beneath" which in turn made room for outdoor entertainment platforms, including a poolside lounge neatly tucked under the shade of the main floor.

These generous openings also allowed for six American holly trees to grow right through the home, carving out verdant interior courtyards. Instead of merely focusing on the groundcover, these evergreen enclosures provide lofted garden experiences "that are more about the canopy, where there's a whole wildlife of birds and bees to explore," Masi comments. The result creates tree house-like interludes that weave throughout the interior. Even to enter the residence, one encircles a grand holly while climbing up the stairwell entrance.

The main abode itself is a lean, elongated shape that harnesses panoramic views, but "the

architectural massing is pervious, as we subtracted areas to allow the landscape to come in," Masi explains. The degree of extraction varies from space to space, which sculpts distinct impressions as one moves through the home. Raised between two courtyards, the central hallway bridge remains fully enclosed by floor-to-ceiling glass, but the translucency creates the feeling of floating midair among the holly trees.

In the main living area, the glass walls slide away completely, becoming "like an elevated pavilion," the architect says. Glass safety railings preserve sight lines, so when the windows open wide, the interior seems to melt into the changing horizon. For more intimate spaces like the primary bedroom's courtyard, walls remain intact, clad with the same weathered-cedar siding used on the exterior.

An organic palette helps preserve these concentrated moments with nature. "Because this project is so centered around the landscape, you don't need a plethora of exotic materials to create the experience," Masi notes. They blanketed the floors and ceilings in solid oak. Functional additions seamlessly integrate into the surrounding wood, from matching built-in cabinetry to recessed lighting fixtures shining through slats on the ceiling and casting a warm, oak-tinged glow. Wood is only briefly interrupted by volcanic peperino stone used for the kitchen counters, fluted fireplace surround and cantilevered bathroom vanities.

The homeowners craved the same stylistic restraint for the furnishings as well. Selected in collaboration with design studio Voce Di, pieces like the rectilinear sectionals and oversize coffee tables follow simple, streamlined shapes that honor the architecture and defer to the views. Materials overall follow suit, composing a subdued palette of wire-brushed oak, soft gray upholstery, matte-black metal and custom rugs made of alpaca, linen and wool. Subtle touches of rope and rattan further infuse the coastal ambience of the landscape, from a set of geometric outdoor chairs made from suspended cord to a tassel wall installation handmade in Mexico.

Floating among the treetops, attuned with the sea and sky, life now feels far from ordinary inside the completed abode. For Masi, reimagining the idea of home from new vantage points represents the true alchemy of architecture. "Our approach is always the same: to inspire everyday living, where even the most routine things are elevated." ■

The living room exudes modern simplicity courtesy of a Camerich gray sectional, custom Voce Di oak coffee table and TLC Home alpaca rug. Inspired by fishing nets, a Kenneth Cobonpue Dragnet lounge chair alludes to the coastal environs.

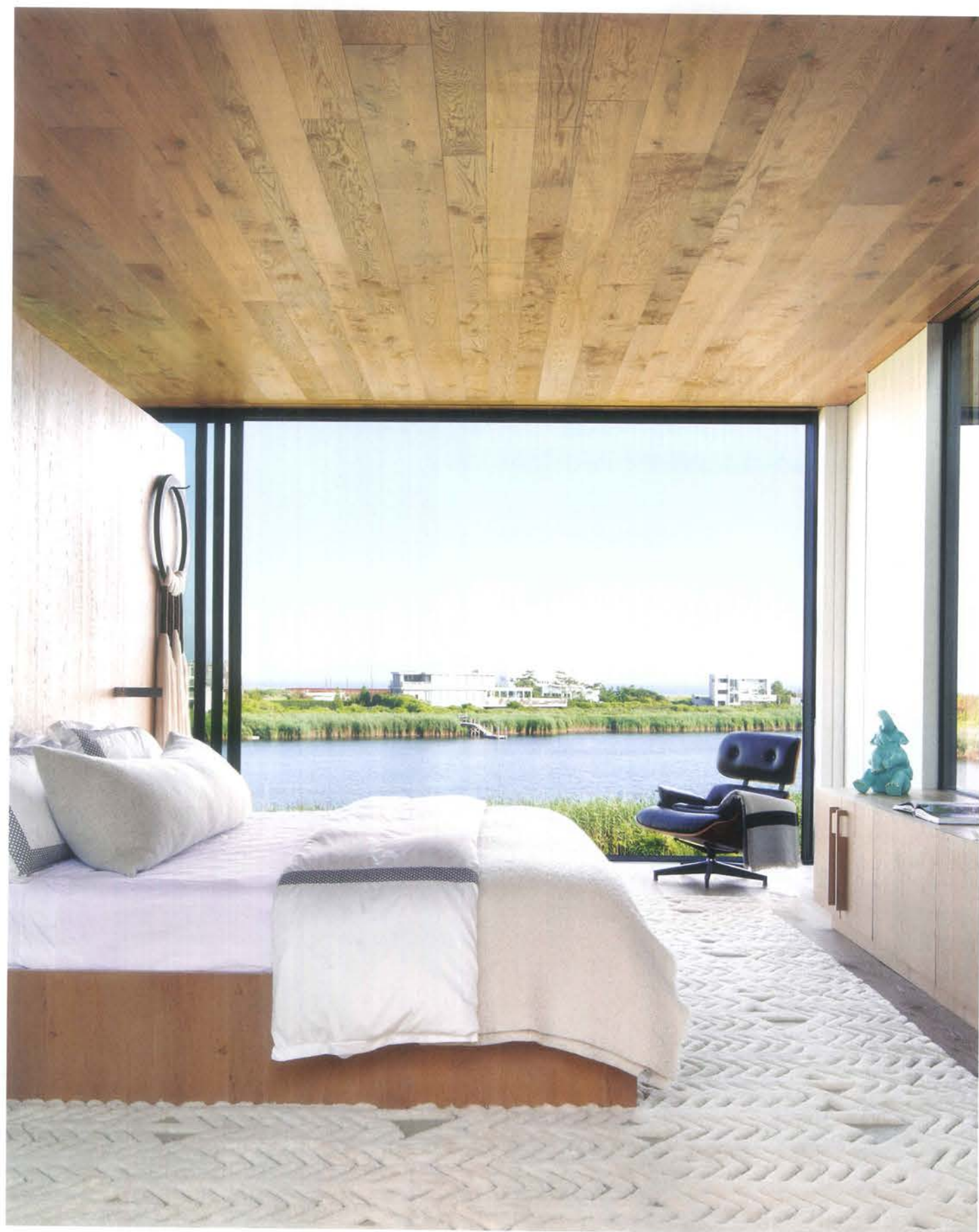




Above: With its warm oak cabinetry by Peragine Millwork, the kitchen feels fully integrated into the surrounding architecture. A family of sculptural black metal stools by Vesta creates a gathering spot around the island.

Opposite: The ceiling above a seating area peels away to create a refreshing outdoor deck. Atop a bespoke Voce Di area rug, lounge chairs by Vesta provide a relaxing place to enjoy the sun. Oak floors throughout the residence are from Hakwood.





Right: Adjacent to the primary bedroom, a private outdoor courtyard feels cocooned on all sides by rich cedar siding in a weathered-gray hue. The soaking tub is Signature Hardware and the showerhead is Calazzo.

Opposite: For the primary bedroom, Voce DI imagined a textured palette of serene hues. A Saturn wall hanging by artisan studio Caralarga nods to the softness of a custom rug hand-serged around the bed.

